

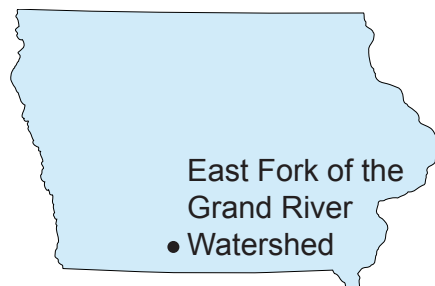
Watershed Operations

August 2009

Investing in the East Fork of the Grand River Watershed, Iowa

Introduction

The purpose of this watershed project is to reduce floodwater damage to crops, infrastructure, and pasture; enhance fisheries and wildlife habitat; and develop recreational opportunities and rural water supplies.



East Fork of the Grand River Watershed covers 168,400 acres in Ringgold and Union Counties in Southern Iowa and Harrison and Worth Counties in Missouri.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Ringgold and Union Counties (Iowa), 5th Congressional District; Harrison and Worth Counties (Missouri), 6th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,258,250

The project plan will install numerous water control structures. A major component of the plan includes treating 8,900 acres of severely eroding land above the planned sites for flood control dams. Pastureland and forestland will also be protected with conservation practices.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- City of Mount Ayr (Iowa)
- East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Subdistrict (Missouri)
- Harrison and Worth County Commissions (Missouri)
- Harrison, Worth, Ringgold and Union County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Southern Iowa Rural Water Association
- Ringgold County Development Corporation (Iowa)
- Ringgold County Conservation Board (Iowa)
- Ringgold and Union County Boards of Supervisors (Iowa)



Grade stabilization structures (ponds), along with pastureland, will help reduce gully erosion.

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Benefits

This watershed project will contribute to the economic growth of the area and provide a source of public water, flood prevention, recreation, grade stabilization benefits, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Economic Opportunities

Once completed, the East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Project will result in an average annual benefit of \$3.8 million from flood prevention, reduced soil erosion, rural water supply and fire protection, as well as recreational value.

Statewide Perspective

The East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Project will provide watershed protection through erosion and sediment control practices; flood prevention and reduced flood damages; fish, wildlife, and recreational development; and agricultural water supply. These improvements will positively impact southern Iowa and northern Missouri.

For More Information

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Terraces like this will protect severely eroding cropland above floodwater retarding dams.



Construction begins on a new flood control dam in the watershed.

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